

STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF CAMERON §
TOWN OF LAGUNA VISTA §

MINUTES OF A WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE LAGUNA VISTA BOARD OF ALDERMEN

DATE: AUGUST 10, 2010

TIME: 12:00 NOON

PLACE: City Hall Building

MEMBERS PRESENT: Susie Houston, Mayor
Ken Irwin, Mayor Pro-Tem
Rita Garcia, Alderwoman
Steve Muschenheim, Alderman
William Schnier, Alderman
Leti Keplinger, Alderwoman

Rolando Vela, City Manager
Terri Galloway, Interim Fire Chief
Pura Mireles, Library Director
Robert McGinnis, Police Chief
Alma Deckard, City Secretary

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: None

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Call to Order

Mayor Houston called the meeting to order at 12:02 pm.

2. Roll Call – All present

3. Open Forum: None

4. Review and discuss the following items

Rolando Vela explained that he anticipates the end of year revenues to be \$1,295,610 and expenditures at \$1,186,040.

Alderman Schnier indicated that he would like keep the tax rate at .2932, which is below the effective rate of \$.2986. He mentioned that his priority for the budget is Government services, in particular the website, public safety, parks and street improvements/drainage.

Alderwoman Garcia stated that she is concerned about the lack of park improvements and use of Town property that can be utilized for parks. She explained that our kids have to go to Los Fresnos to practice, because we don't have adequate fields in the parks. We have 15 acres of land that sits there and we do nothing with it.

Alderman Irwin stated he was in favor of using the 15 acres for parks. Alderman Schnier suggested seeking out commercial and residential contributions for park improvements. There are grants available and he would have no problem using reserve funds for park improvements.

Alderman Irwin stated that one common complaint from citizens is the lack of code enforcement. There are so many ordinance violations throughout town that are not addressed. Rolando Vela suggested having the Interim Fire Chief handle code enforcement on a part-time basis. The Interim Fire Chief is currently making \$12,000 annually, whereas the former fire chief was making \$25,000 annually.

It was the consensus of the board that the position of part-time code enforcement be added to the budget.

Alderman Schnier asked if the proposed budget is recommending any cost of living allowance (COLA) for employees. Rolando Vela explained that the proposed budget submitted did not include any COLA. Alderman Irwin stated that the national COLA for this year for government employees was zero.

Rolando Vela explained that we currently have 4 storage units that costs approximately \$5,700 per year. He stated that in we could consider building a shed behind the city hall building and it could pay for itself in a matter of 3 years.

Alderman Schnier stated that he would like to see adding the code enforcement position, the new officer position, that was frozen last year, and the patrol unit and still reducing the tax rate.

Alderwoman Garcia stated that she would like to see the board keep the effective tax rate of \$.2986 and not go below it to the \$.2932.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Garcia made a motion to adjourn meeting at 1:20 p.m., second by Alderman Schnier. All voted “aye” to adjourn, motion carried.

Susie Houston, Mayor

Attest:

Alma Deckard, City Secretary